

Chattanooga Central High School
Alumni Association
February 19, 2019
Meeting Minutes

The February meeting of the Chattanooga Central High School Alumni Association was held Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. This meeting was held on a Tuesday to accommodate special guests Steve Highlander, Dr. Bryan Johnson, and Dr. John Tharp. President, Lucy Bottorff called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. New attendees were Katheron and Chad Latham. Katheron is the choral director for CHS and Brown Middle school. She brought along two choir students, Bryson Allmon and Llyra Bryson. Also, in attendance was Jennifer Lewis, former track coach at CHS, along with her husband, Assistant Principal, Steve Lewis. Introductions were made around the room.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Lucy distributed copies of the minutes, agenda, and treasurer's report for review. Jake Johns noted a correction to be made under his comments regarding his auditions for color guard. The auditions were held at UT, not UTC. Correction made. Zoey Greene is our student secretary. She filled in for Kelly Robinson last month to take the meeting minutes. Thank you, Zoey, for all you do! A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Buffy Hoge. Judy Phillips seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tara Waldrop was unable to attend the meeting. Lucy announced that there were no deposits made and no checks written this month. The fund balance is \$15,840.90. Martha Faye Blabon made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Finley King seconded. Motion passed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. King stated the Fourth Annual CDC Prom is to be held on February 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. This event is hosted by the senior students. It started four years ago as a senior project and has grown to accommodate East Hamilton as well as Hixson High schools. The students handle all the decorations, pictures, and food. Everyone has a wonderful time.

Upcoming dates to remember: March 1, 2019 at 6:30pm is the date for the JROTC Military Ball. It will be held aboard the Southern Belle Riverboat. The ACT test date is on March 12th. Spring break will be from March 18th – 22nd this year.

Fifteen (15) students from Central placed in the All County Band. Central, Signal Mountain, and Ooltewah each placed 15 students. We are extremely proud of them.

A proposal to consider: The Nashville Sounds, Tennessee's minor league baseball team, will be auctioning seats from their stadium in groups of 10. There are no bids yet on E-bids Nashville. Finley would like to purchase seats (approx. \$2,000.00) to finish filling our stadium and make it look nice. These are gently used. The last seats that were purchased for our stadium were from Engel Stadium. Lucy stated she may be able to have the seats donated and would be glad to check into that and report back.

STUDENT OFFICERS REPORT

No reports were available for the Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior class, as representatives were not in attendance. Nathan Vanderwilt, Senior Class President, reported that seniors are preparing for graduation, just 79 days away. Nominations for Mr. and Miss Central have been taken and will be announced on Thursday. Senior Day will be held May 9, 2019, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Distinguished Alumni Inductees will be in attendance and will speak at the annual event. Mr. and Miss Central will be announced during Senior Day as well. Class Day will be held on May 10th at 9:00 a.m. Awards and scholarships will be presented on this day. The date for the graduation ceremony will be May 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Barney Ottinger presented an overview of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame (DAHOF) for all new attendees. We have eleven (11) new nominations and eleven (11) hold-over nominations. Inductees are selected based on their personal accolades and accomplishments after graduation. The deadline to submit nominations is February 28, 2019. We will approve nominations at the next alumni meeting. Invitations will be sent to previous inductees.

The Sports Hall of Fame (SHOF) is based on high school and collegiate sports achievements for former graduates from 1945 to present. We hold a banquet each year to honor inductees, where their families can attend. Inductees are presented with a framed portrait to be displayed in the front lobby of the school.

The Legends will be categorized based on sports achievements from 1907 – 1944 and is currently in the planning process. There are over 35,000 Chattanooga Central High alumni around the globe.

Lucy stated that the website has been updated and we are in the process of securing someone to take over and run the website.

Finley updated attendees on the progress of the track. Due to the drenching rains we've had, the track won't be finished for a couple of months. There was much discussion regarding the signage, fencing, and gates required to preserve the integrity of the new track, once complete. Steve Highlander and Dr. Bryan Johnson briefly addressed the plans for lighting the track. Neither was sure if lights were part of the original project bid without researching. However, everything that was bid was over budget. While it is imperative to have proper lighting to be able to hold track meets into the evening hours, Dr. Johnson explained there are pressing maintenance issues within the district and even within Central High School that take precedence.

David Sharp gave the Bricks R Us update. He presented an overview as well as the samples for Finley to keep in his office. David announced that he will be stepping out for a bit to take care of family and won't be able to continue to be the contact for the Bricks R Us endeavor. He turned over the contact information and brick orders that have not been placed to Tara Waldrop and Kelly Robinson. Kim Fields is our contact at Bricks R Us and Kelly agreed to contact her to become familiar with our account. Tara was unable to attend this meeting. However, she and Kelly will discuss the account in detail at their earliest convenience.

The golf tournament update will be addressed at the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Katheron Latham introduced herself and her husband, Chad. She directs the CHS Concert and Freshman choirs. She has lived in Harrison for 23 years and she and her husband attend Bayside Baptist Church, where Mr. Latham is the Sound Director. She would like to address the need for a portable sound system to benefit Central's choir.

There have been many accomplishments within the department and great community support. Bayside Baptist volunteers painted the choral room and donated a piano to the department. The students held a fund raiser with the help of "Nothing Bundt Cakes" to pay for a piano dolly and minor repairs and tuning for the piano. In December, the Jazz Band and choir traveled downtown for Christmas at the Courthouse. Recently, 21 out of 24 students participated in Lee University Honors Choir. They each paid a fee of \$40 and had to provide their own transportation. Central High, Signal Mountain, and East Hamilton were the only schools with students who participated in the event. Michelle Sprague, Marketing Director for Papa Johns Pizza, recently donated \$200.00 toward previous fundraising efforts on behalf of the department.

The proposed sound system would be for use in the classroom and be able to travel as well. Mrs. Latham would like the choir to be able to visit the feeder elementary and middle schools each year to showcase their talent and recruit new students. The proposed system is an all-in-one Yamaha StagePas 600BT Portable PA w/Bluetooth. The quote provided is for a 10-channel mixer, 2 speakers, stands, 3 microphones, cable connections, wall mounts, and shipping for a cost of \$2,017.59. Mr. Latham has extensive knowledge and researched to find the most reasonable set up for the best price. He presented the proposal to the association. So far \$700.00 has been raised. Chester Bankston contributed \$500, Card Monroe Corporation contributed \$100, and a student's mother, donated \$100 on behalf of Hospice of Chattanooga. Llyra Bryson spoke on behalf of her accomplishments due to Mrs. Latham's dedication and support. David noticed the proposal for the sound system is the bare minimum to get the choir up and running. He made a motion to fund the choral department in the amount of \$1,500.00. Finley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Lucy introduced our special guest Steve Highlander, HCDE School Board Representative. Mr. Highlander addressed the Association and mentioned that the new track is the first addition to the CHS campus in 50 years! He then introduced Dr. Bryan Johnson, HCDE Superintendent.

Dr. Johnson stated that he loves and is impressed with Central and all the tradition surrounding the school. He is very focused on five (5) major factors for our school system. They are: student achievement, future readiness, effective and efficient operations, teachers and leaders, as well as organization. The system is currently undergoing a comprehensive capital assessment where he will meet with each school and determine needs for the schools. The graduation rates since 2013 are the highest they've been. We have 17 Volkswagen e-labs and 5 learning communities. We have met expectations for growth and will continue to work hard within the community. Dr. Johnson introduced Dr. John Tharp, District Director for the Harrison Bay District.

Dr. Tharp stated that he was very impressed by the scholarship opportunities the Association provides every year. He has reviewed the minutes from past meetings and is familiar with how the Association funds projects. He commended Finley on the commitment to this school and upholding transparency by providing timely updates to the members. His goal is to see future increases in academic growth in our area.

Buffy was introduced as the Historian for the Alumni Association. She addressed Dr. Johnson regarding capital needs for the school. He stated that he will be discussing with Finley any needs the school may have during his capital assessment.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lucy stated that she was proud of Finley and Brielle Farrow for everything they have done and all that they continue to do for the students and the school. Dr. Johnson commented that the commitment to Central High is evident.

She announced that the 70's class is working on plans for the 50th anniversary year of the Highway 58 campus.

Martha Faye announced that the Class of 1959 was hosting their 60th class reunion at the Mountain City Club on June 8, 2019. The cost for individuals will be \$35.00 and couples, \$70.00.

Jake Johns said that SEPA ranked The Central Digest website as overall superior! They made "All Southeastern" for coverage and content. We are very close to "All Southern" status. Jake teaches students how to write articles and he also edits the articles for The Digest.

Preston Fore is the Valedictorian this year! Zeena Whayeb is the Salutatorian!

Lucy announced the next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. Buffy made a motion to adjourn. Martha Faye seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Kelly D. Robinson
Secretary

List of Attendees

Bryson Allmon	Katheron Latham	Chad Latham	Llyra J. Bryson	Brielle Farrow
Steve Highlander	Dr. Bryan Johnson	Dr. John Tharp	Nathan Vanderwilt	Kathy Ratz
Preston Fore	Kelly Robinson	Lucy Bottorff	Judy Phillips	Jake Johns
Buffy Hoge	Zach Butler	Barney Ottinger	John Crawford	Zoey Greene
Naomi Hay	Dick Blabon	Martha Faye Blabon	Steve Lewis	Jennifer Lewis
Finley King	Betsy Corum	David Sharp	Vivian Pettigrew	